

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /118 W

----- 024033

R 260744Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2360

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10692

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RP CH

SUBJ: MRS. MARCOS AND CHIANG CHING

REF: A) MANILA 11520; B) HONG KONG 10486

1. AS INDICATED IN REF B, TREATMENT ACCORDED MRS. MARCOS SINCE HER ARRIVAL IN PEKING HAS BEEN UNUSUAL FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN A MAJOR HEAD OF STATE. HER MEETING WITH CHOU EN-LAI, THE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION DEVOTED TO HER BY CHIANG CHING, AND THE EXTENSION OF HER STAY ALL SIGNIFY THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE PRC PLACES ON ITS DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPINES. ABOUT ALL THAT IS LEFT WOULD BE A PERSONAL MEETING WITH MAO, A POSSIBILITY THAT MAY WELL EVENTUATE.

2. ALTHOUGH CHIANG CHING HAS CERTAINLY PAID AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF ATTENTION TO MRS. SAARCOS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SHE HAS PRE-EMPTED CHOU. RECENTLY, ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND ESPECIALLY CONCERNING THEIR DESIRE FOR INCREASED RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, THE PRC LEADERSHIP AS APPEARED TO BE IN RATHER COMPLETE AGREEMENT. IN THIS CONTEXT, MRS. MARCOS' VISIT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO THE
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PRC AND , IF SHE INDICATED A DESIRE TO STAY ON FOR THE CHINESE

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION, CHIANG CHING COULD WELL HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH LITTLE ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO EXTENDING THE INVI-

TATION. THE HOSPITALIZED CHOU, WHO INVITED MRS. MARCOS WHEN HE WAS IN BETTER HEALTH, COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN THE HOST AND CHIANG CHING, WHO HAS NO STATE FUNCTION, COULD DO FOR IN HER ROLE AS PATRONESS OF THE ARTS AND WIFE OF THE CHINESE LEADER. THERE STILL REMAINS, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY THAT CHIANG CHING SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSERT HERSELF IN FOREIGN RELATIONS AND GRASPED IT FIRMLY IN ORDER TO FURTHER HER OWN POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

3. IN ANY CASE, MRS. MARCOS IS NOT OUT OF PEKING WHILE CHIANG CHING, WHO ACCOMPANIED HER AS FAR AS TIENTSIN, HAS APPARENTLY RETURNED TO PEKING. MRS. MARCOS PRESUMABLY WILL BE BACK IN PEKING FOR THE OCTOBER 1 EVENTS AT WHICH TIME CHIANG'S ROLE MAY COME TO THE FORE AGAIN.

4. SEPTTEL WILL PROVIDE ANALYSIS OF CHIANG CHING'S RECENT ROLE IN CHINESE INTERNAL POLITICS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK10692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740271-0676
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740912/aaaaajyl.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) MANILA 11520; B) HONG KONG 10486
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. MARCOS AND CHIANG CHING
TAGS: PFOR, RP, CH, (MARCOS, IMELDA), (CHIANG CHING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005